

Velvet Reinstated and Thick, Soft Fabrics Arrive for Cold Weather



Women Have Problem in How to Dress for House and the Street.

By ANNE RITTENHOUSE.

WOMEN worry about fabrics when the season turns from what is mild to what is bitter.

They want to know what will serve for the months that demand two weaves of material, one that is thick for the street, one that is thin for the house.

As long as we continue to overheat our rooms we cannot retain street clothes when we enter the house. As long as our winters remain what they are we cannot wear the same fabrics under the sky as under the roof. Such is the problem. Women do not object unless they have temperaments that demand strict economy of time as well as money in dressing.

Most women talk as much of their inability to find time to change into different costumes as they do of the high price of clothes and the consequent limitation of their possessions. Acquisitiveness is a trait that remains in the nature of woman, but she is sadly handicapped in this post-war era by the fact that there is not enough money in the world to buy the clothes she wants.

She must deliberately choose from much that is offered. The Puritans, who again attempt to dominate America, would say that deliberation which entails limitation is good for one's soul. Maybe. We are embarked on so much that is good for our souls that we are quite sure history will repeat itself as it did in the Cromwellian days, for the moment the stiffness of Puritanism was overthrown human nature went quite mad and indulged in clothes and morals. The wicked continue to read of the era with relish.

It is not Puritanism that is behind a woman's limitation in clothes this season. It is the price. She must decide whether she wants to wear cheap clothes that are in the highest strata of fashion or expensive clothes which cost her so much she must continue to live on when they are discarded.

Each woman must choose for herself. The manufacturers could not live if they did not supply vast quantities of the cheaper grade of clothes which permit women of small incomes to follow every new fashion and to be the first to discard it.

But there are women who will not dress in such manner. They want something that gets into the picture of the hour. They do not want to be compelled to wear old clothes when skirts have changed their cut and jackets are enlarged into capes.

Fabrics for the Winter.

The minds of inquisitive women turn to materials to-day. They ask a hundred questions of each other, also take the materials into their confidence as to the best thing to buy. They discuss the wearability, its ability to retain its tendency to soil, its chances for remaining in fashion. They know the caprices of the American climate. They cannot buy clothes with the same news of the English woman, who realizes it is the Plunders trenches for her as far as weather goes, and unlike the French, they do not look forward to an even temperature of mild days, wet nights and drizzling rain to be endured until the horse chestnut trees begin to bloom.

The English and the French can discard the problem of the superheated house. They have never encountered that perplexing condition. The American, on the other hand, is entitled to ask these hundred questions about fabrics and their coloring, for she realizes she must encounter climate in the making, judging it by its caprices, its abnormalities and its utter disregard of the calendar.

The European woman says that one frock is enough for a woman with a middle income; the American knows that one frock will be too hot in some ways as it is too cold. She must have some diversity to keep up with the atmosphere if not with her desire for variety. She therefore asks what is the best thing to buy and what will give the best service regardless of French fashion, and without suggesting to her whether that she may be growing old.

The dominant thing brought out by the autumn collection is the fact that velvet is to play a strong part this

season, and not only under electric light but under the sunlight. There is no longer any doubt of its success. It will be worn in cheaply made frocks, which will show its poor qualities after a few days' service, but this does not hinder it from moving in the best society and demanding a high price for its services. Velvet should be ambitious. It was too closely attached to royalty throughout its early career to be willing to step downward in the scale of fashion without turning malicious. There are some who think it should be kept for royalty, but as this type of mankind is dying out, if we believe the exponents of the new democracy, what they wear may not serve as an example; it may be taken up, however, as an amusing imitation of an extinct race.

There is a fashion for white velvet this winter that is reminiscent of the throne. It is worn as a complete gown or wrap with its snowlike surface enhanced by fur. Again it serves as a background for the kind of embroidery which the northern races brought up to the ice and snow from the ancient civilizations of Persia and Egypt.

A white velvet coat trimmed with triangles of scarlet, black, yellow edged with threads of silver strung through small pearls, makes a gorgeous coat, especially when edged with black fur, which is preferred to brown fur.

There are white velvet linings to black velvet capes, the kind that swing from the shoulders at the back after the manner of James the First. The white velvet would not be used if it was not intended to show, so it serves an artistic background for a black robe figure silhouette against it.

New Weaves of Velvet Appear.

What was once called panne velvet is revived by the milliner for hats. The dressmakers saw in this revival a chance to use this soft, silky fabric for the deep Carthaginian girdle as well as the Egyptian triangles that continue to entangle the edges of some frocks. The French dressmakers are less tired of this manoeuvre than the American. Possibly because they do not have the vast quantities of ready-to-wear garments that flood this country whenever a new fashion makes them secure in their selling power.

There is another weave of velvet which has depth to it, although its fragility is appealing. It is as comfortable as crepe de chine on the body and has none of the awkward solidity that keeps it from being draped. The figure and into capricious drapery. It clings, and that is the quality most in demand in fabrics this season, despite the fact that hoopskirts still prevail.

Youngsters wear velvet. Old ladies wear it. Girls of eight have long waited afternoon frocks of black velvet with fullness in the skirts, at sides, and a great high belt fastened with black enamel. These children also wear blue and red and green velvet evening capes gathered across the shoulders to a flat yoke on which is mounted a large collar of gray squirrel.

Choosing an Evening Cape.

A woman who was choosing clothes at the house of Callot asked what was the best evening cape for a woman of moderate means.

The answer was: "Black velvet with a colored lining and without trimming. The neck should be finished so that a fur piece could be attached. The lining should be of brocade, preferably. If this is not possible make it of dull toned silk. The cape should be circular in cut and well fitted to the shoulders."

The woman asked if it should have openings at the sides for the arms. "Preferably not," was the answer. "It is simpler to wear the folds of the material throughout the body. It keeps one warmer than the cape, which has openings at the sides to let in the cold winds."

When a house of such distinction puts plain black velvet in the first rank as a serviceable evening cape the advice is worth much to those who wish to dress well on a limited income.

True, the more expensive evening wraps are made of gorgeous metallic tissue with costly furs, but they do not rank higher in fashion than the velvet perline.

Powder blue, embroidered in steel and silver threads, is the color of velvet chosen for some aristocratic wraps, but black and dull red continue to go along in their well-worn path. There is a chance from dull red to dull green which is pleasing to those who have tired of tropical shades. It rests the eyes.

Dull green velvet, by the way, has crept into fashion from all sides. It is used for coat suits, and for one-piece frocks that serve in the afternoon. Other materials in this shade are kasha and perline.

Red velvet gowns are designed by the best houses, but they are not a wise choice for the woman who is limited in the amount of money she can purchase. The red velvet is to cost quite a lot of its kind, and rise above the com-

Above on Left—Jeanne Lanvin makes this new mantle of velvet with a dull finish. The color is a fog gray and the embroidery is in the triangle design which Lanvin likes. The sleeves are unusual, so is the trimming of the shoulders with fur. The robe to match goes beneath.

Second—Jeanne Lanvin designs this Turkish robe in soft gray velvet, trimmed with gray rabbit and nail-heads of steel.

Third—Cheruit makes this full evening wrap in velvet trimmed with ermine. The immense collar marks it as a Louis XIII. adaptation. The color of the velvet is a mixture of red or purple which they call Louis XIII.

Below—Cheruit designs this interesting evening gown of black lace, velvet and of pailletted galloon. This is also after the style of Louis XIII.

monplace; it descends into undiscernible cheapness ever and often.

It perplexes many women to find that satin is not the trump card it was. It is easy for her who does not wish to think too much of clothes to merely decide, with a nod of the head, that evening frocks shall be of satin. This is a simple system that leaves one time to worry about something else, but it is not a system to follow this season.

Crepe de chine started satin on its downward path. Then transparent materials took up the dressmakers' thoughts and left little imagination for the fabric which had served as a standby throughout generations. Silk of various weaves suited satin as a lining for the evening frock. Silk jersey took its place for reticulations. No doubt the shops will still sell thousands of yards of satin, but one holds the opinion that it has been beaten down from first place.

Satin is used for accessories, but even then it is touched up with old Italian embroidery or cutout work.

What Is Kasha Cloth?

Once in a while fashion language is dotted with a new word and the public rise up to ask its meaning. There have been many such words. Kasha and duvetyne are two of the best known. To-day the new ones are kasha and perline.

Kasha cloth has a certain stiffness given by the hair that looks like molting running through its surface. Kasha serge and kasha duvetyne are different weaves of the older and well known materials.

The kasha duvetyne, which is in high demand, is said to be more durable than its immediate ancestor. It does not bear upon its velvety surface the impress of the hand knocks it has received. One can sit in a chair in a gown of kasha duvetyne and not rise up mortified. This cannot be said of the fabric from which the word kasha is omitted.

These weaves have crept into the ready-to-wear clothes and people like them. They take dye in admirable manner. Edge is one of the favorite tones. A gown of it is trimmed with gray silk embroidery, which is a curious mixture to the conventional mind.

There is a tendency to dispose of dark gowns for the street in favor of light ones. France even advocating white with quantities of black or brilliant ornaments. And it is quite natural that tan and mist gray should come into first fashion.

These colors do not appeal to the economic woman, and yet there is this much to be said in their favor, that they clean more easily than dark colors and do not show spots of dust as quickly.

What of Blue Serge?

The average woman is sceptical of new materials. For this reason she turns to navy blue serge as something she knows. She is not willing to risk the contents of her purse on a more fashionable fabric, the evils of which are a hidden mystery. But there are times when even the average woman must break away from the conventional materials, and this season urges her to do it through its offerings of new weaves.

Blue serge is a spring and autumn fabric, but women use it under coats throughout the cold weather. They realize that it shows spots as quickly as a piece of mahogany furniture, but they do not consider it worse in this respect than any other material, so they put their money into it for all kinds of costumes except a top wrap.

The chance to wear it this season is slight. There were gowns of it shown in the early autumn which were fashioned with sufficient imagination to keep serge going for a while, but as the season advanced women became restless and thought they would prefer the new alluring materials that came out of Paris. Then blue serge dropped into the background. It became an occasional and not a universal material for city street.

Women who had grown of it and who under the spur of conservatism believed it necessary to use them saw in the new movement of sleeves a chance to rearrange the frocks into something wearable.

These new sleeves have been the hope of many old garments. A blue serge that can be cut into a pinafore frock with square Hindu sleeves of georgette crepe or crepe de chine becomes a desirable thing.

The sleeves may be so wide and brilliant in their ornamentation that one notices the use of blue serge.

Amateurs in Theatre Project at Greenwich

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, GREENWICH, Conn., Nov. 26.—Through the efforts of a number of prominent men and women here the Fairfield Players, a new community theatre association, was organized in Greenwich on Tuesday evening, whose object will be to promote amateur theatricals here. A meeting was called at the Young Men's Christian Association auditorium, at which about 100 persons were present. Mr. Bradley Stoughton was chairman of the meeting. Messrs. E. Norman Scott and A. W. Marshall acted as temporary secretary and treasurer respectively until such time as officers are elected. Dr. George E. Vincent, head of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York,

made a few remarks. Mrs. Hill-Brown of New York is arranging for the first of three performances to be given in the next year.

Other prime movers in the organization are Mrs. E. Norman Scott, Mrs. Charles L. Langer, Mrs. Coulter D. Huyler, Mrs. Elmer L. Mackay, Mrs. George E. Vincent and Dr. Linwood Taft of the Edgewood School, Mrs. William Hodge, Mrs. Edward W. Packard, Mrs. Clifford D. Mallory, Mrs. Walter M. Bennett and the Misses Mary Lanier, Marjorie Pynchon, Gladys Armstrong, Dorothy Rosier and Alfred Morrell.

On Tuesday evening Battery F, 192d Artillery, held its first monthly dance in the State Armory. Edward J. McEnelly's singing orchestra furnished a concert programme and also played for the dancing.

Wednesday evening there was a dance at the Field Club for the benefit of the Lander Camp Scholarship Fund, which sends poor children to the Lander Camp at Scott, Me. Among those who acted as patronesses were Messrs. Edwin B. Close, Edward Morris, Coulter D. Huyler, W. L. Richter, William S. Gray, Frederick K. Rupperecht, William H. Pain, George L. Storm, L. P. Vandell, Hugh C. Leighton, Walter Glison,

George M. Pynchon, Frederick Glison, Charles D. Lander, Sterling Thomas, Walter Bower and Frank H. Keen.

The last card party of the series given by the Putnam Hill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to aid in the completion of the repairs of the Putnam Cottage, was held at the cottage on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. L. N. Lewis was the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Perkins have returned to their home on Dublin road from a two months' trip abroad. Mr. Perkins is president of the Farmers Loan and Trust Company and was called to Paris on business.

Mr. and Mrs. John Howard of Montclair, N. J., celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Howard, in Sound Beach.

Mrs. Edward M. Morris entertained a party of fourteen of her friends for tea at the Field Club last Sunday afternoon. On Thanksgiving afternoon the members of the club held a trap shooting contest on the club traps. A supper and dance will be held at the club on the evening of December 3.

The Rev. and Mrs. M. George Thompson will leave on next Wednesday for a trip to Europe. Dr. Thompson, who re-

cently withdrew his resignation as rector of Christ Episcopal Church here, has obtained a leave of absence with full salary by the church for a year, at the end of which time he will resume his rectorship in the parish.

Col. and Mrs. Thompson Pay Visit to Havana

HAVANA, Nov. 26.—This Cuban city is preparing for an interesting winter of entertainment. There are quite a number of Americans already here for the racing season. The open patio and palm garden at the Hotel Sevilla will open for tea and dances late this month.

Col. Robert M. Thompson of New York, who is on a cruise with Mrs. Thompson to San Francisco, paid Havana a twelve hour visit recently. He intends returning later in the season. Other arrivals at the Sevilla include Mr. Maurice P. Motts of Lima, Peru; Mr. Jacques C. Hirsch of Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland; Mr. C. G. G. Anderberg, Swedish Minister to Cuba; Messrs. W. W. Dugan, M. W. Taggart, C. W. Van Tassel, A. W. Graves, Lamen Carroll, T. V. Lake and S. S. Lees, Dr. R. J. Haefli, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Jesek, Mr. Howard L. Keen and Mr. and Mrs. L.

L. Hill of New York, Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant 4th of San Diego, Cal., Mr. and Mrs. George S. Mears of Jacksonville, Fla., and Mr. W. H. Armistead of Boston.

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